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| CCQs: | Notes: |
| Didn’t Lewis and Clark travel to the west, why was it still called the “GAD” after that? They must have seen a lot of land that weren’t desert.  It always seems nice to start a new life, but it can be hard.  Did the federal government help to increase their territory? Or was it for the many new resources there? | MI(1st ): There was discussion of why not to migrate to the west.  Details:   * Some reasons were that it was too long, insufficient funds, and the description as the “Great American Desert” led to believe it was unfit for civilization.   MI (2nd): Once there were enough migrants, they saw that it was not a desert, but normal grounds for living.  Details:   * Some people were farmers who found fertile land (contradicts desert environment) * Some were ranchers who found wide grasslands for their animals (once again contradicts desert environment) * Miners from CA had lived comfortably in CA. * The once called “Great American Desert” has now become the “frontier”: an empty land that was unsettled and awaiting man to find “possibilities” (jobs, businesses, wealth, etc.)   MI (3rd): When Americans traveled to the West, it had fit neither description of the “GAD” or “frontier”.  Details:   * The West was a diverse land with different regions, climates, and natural resources. * It was populated around the West, included Indians, French and British Canadians, Mexicans, etc. * They had tried to make the West theirs, but alas they could not because of the people already living there, they chose to coexist with them.   MI (only)(4th ): English-speaking Americans transformed the West by connecting it with the East, and they had a heavy reliance on the federal government for aid. |
| Summary: The West was first called uninhabitable, but as time passed, people started to tell of a different story where there was no one, but was in good conditions for colonization. Eventually people found out that there were various ethnic groups around the West, where the West was transformed by the East. | |